# PROCEEDINGS

OF

# THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

# SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY

OF

# TRAVANCORE.

## THE FIRST DAY.

*Monday, the 27th February, 1928.*

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly commenced its sittings in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at 12 noon on Monday, the 27th February 1928, the 15th Kumbham 1103.

The members for the session were elected and nominated under the Rules republished as Appendix A to this volume. The composition of the Assembly was as follows :—

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|---|---|---|---|
| Members elected by the Talūk voters under Rule II | | ... | 43 |
| Do. | by the Planters under Rule III | .. | 4 |
| Do, | by the Mercantile and Trading classes under Rule IV. | . | 7 |
| Do. | by the Municipal Councils under Rule V | ... | 19 |
| Do. | by the Jenmies under Rule VI | ... | 4 |
| Do. | nominated by Government under Rule VII | ... | 23 |
| | Total | .... | 100 |

A list of the members is republished as Appendix B.

The proceedings commenced at 12 noon, M. E. Watts Esq., B. A., Barrister-at-Law, Dewan, presiding. Among those present were C. W. E. Cotton Esq., C. I. E., I. C. S., Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States, Rivett Carnac Esq., Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rao Bahadur R. Krishna Pillai Esq., B. A., B. L., Devaswom Commissioner, H. S. Chatfield Esq., M. A., Barrister-at-Law, Chief Justice, Major G. F. Turner, Commandant, Nayar Brigade, Heads of the various Departments and Offices, members of the Legislative Council, and several other official and non-official ladies and gentlemen.

Copies of the Dewan's Opening Address in English, Malayalam and Tamil were distributed to the members, as also copies of the Administration Report of the State for 1102 M. E. in English and Malayalam, of the Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1102 M. E. in English and Malayalam, of the Statistics of Travancore for 1102 M. E. in English and of the memoranda of subjects for representation at the session in English, Malayalam and Tamil.

The Dewan then opened the session with the following

### ADDRESS.

*Gentlemen,*

By the gracious command of Her Highness the Maharani Regent we assemble here today, the third time I have had the privilege of welcoming you and learning from you the needs of the people. The Administration Report for the year 1102 is now in your hands and I have no doubt you will form your own conclusions from a

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careful study of the record it contains of the activities of the several departments of the State. In the hope that it may be of some little help to you in your study I shall endeavour now to lead you through whatever may be of interest or importance in its chapters. Before doing so, however, let me make a brief comment upon the proceedings of last year's Assembly. You have already been supplied with a statement of what has been done during the last twelve months on the representations made at the last two sessions. Heads of departments and officers of the Secretariat have laboured long and earnestly in finding ways and means to meet your requests. I sincerely trust that the statement will satisfy you that action has been taken or is being attempted in every possible direction and, more than all, I trust that you will see emerging from it a sincere intention on the part of Her Highness's Government to regard your representations as a serious business of State. In the course of last year's proceedings I dropped a hint to some of the members that it would make for facility of disposal and practicability of compliance if the representations of each member were confined to a few carefully selected requirements and if small matters, which it is within the power of local officers and heads of departments to carry out, were not brought before this Assembly. I see in the lists of subjects of which you have given notice a formidable array of many matters, great and small. May I hope that you will make a judicious selection from them when the time comes for actual representation.

**2. Revenue.** Now let us go back to the Administration Report. We have to congratulate ourselves that Nature was bountiful in 1102. It was a good year in all directions: in agriculture, in trade, in commerce and in public health. The finances of the year reflect this happy position. The budget for 1102 estimated a total income of something over Rs. 215½ lakhs. As a matter of fact, when the accounts for the year were closed, the revenue was found to have mounted up to Rs. 238½ lakhs. The bulk of the increase was due to an all-round healthy growth in favourable circumstances and to a better percentage of collection.

**3. Expenditure.** Before the year opened we had planned to spend about Rs. 208 lakhs. When the accounts of the year were made up, the actual expenditure was found to be between Rs. 204 and Rs. 205 lakhs. The year thus yielded a surplus of about Rs. 34 lakhs or Rs. 11 lakhs more than the previous year's surplus. A comfortable bank balance commands respect and inspires confidence ; and nobody can question the wisdom of husbanding our resources against the time when larger calls attend upon administrative progress. It is a satisfying thought that the Government felt no need during the year to stint expenditure in any direction whatsoever.

**4. Assets and Liabilities.** You will no doubt be interested in learning the State's position generally in the matter of assets and liabilities as apart from the year's transactions alone. The assets of 1102 stood at Rs. 297·29 lakhs and the liabilities at Rs. 160·7 lakhs showing a closing balance of Rs. 136·59 lakhs registered, in the language of the Audit Department, as the Government Account. The closing balance of the previous year was Rs. 103·37 lakhs. This does not mean that the total available capital at the disposal of the State is only Rs. 136·59 lakhs. There are sinking funds earmarked for particular purposes amounting to Rs. 48·76 lakhs, which are exhibited as a liability but in reality constitute an asset available for the discharge of specific obligations. Similarly, savings bank deposits with the Government, which stood at Rs. 60 lakhs at the close of 1102, are also rightly exhibited as a liability ; but Government have the turnover of this money in return for which they pay interest. At the end of the year the assets included fixed deposits with banks to the extent of over Rs. 10 lakhs and investments in Government of India securities at face value amounting to Rs. 165·33 lakhs. I may explain that the total assets as shown do not include large amounts laid out over a long course of years on buildings, irrigation systems and railways. All these, of course, have a capital value although not readily realisable.

**5. Lands for landless Classes.** In the Administration Report there is a remark that, of the 3,511 acres assigned to the landless classes, 2,250 acres or 64 per cent were registered in the name of Pulayas who, for the most part, are the actual

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